

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 627

By Naifeh

A RESOLUTION to recognize recording artist Billy Dean for his contributions to the music industry.

WHEREAS, Tennessee has long been known throughout the world for its rich musical heritage; talented musicians from across the Nation have traveled to Nashville to begin legendary careers that have earned Music City U.S.A. a reputation that is unsurpassed in the pantheon of American music; and

WHEREAS, one such talented musician is Billy Dean, whose insightful songwriting, clear and distinctive voice, and masterful instrumental gifts have earned him accolades from many awards academies and countless devoted fans; and

WHEREAS, a native of Quincy, Florida, William Harold Dean was born April 2, 1962, and was raised appreciating the value of music; while the music of artists such as James Taylor and Merle Haggard helped shape young Billy's taste and talent, his most significant influence was his late beloved father, Billy Dean, Sr.; and

WHEREAS, a natural athlete, Mr. Dean excelled at all sports and earned a basketball scholarship to college; he only attended one semester, however, before leaving to pursue his dreams; and

WHEREAS, in 1990, Mr. Dean had his first hit song with "Only Here for a Little While," a hopeful tune that introduced his heartfelt lyricism and strong vocal talent to a wide audience of discerning listeners; and

WHEREAS, since then, Billy Dean has transcended genres with his diverse repertoire, earning numerous awards, including those of Academy of Country Music (ACM) Songwriter of the Year, ACM New Male Vocalist of the Year, BMI Pop Awards, BMI Country Song Awards, BMI Million Air Plays Award, Country Music Television Rising Star Award, The Nashville Network Songwriter Award, and a Grammy; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Dean's appeal reaches beyond the music world; he has appeared in numerous television movies and shows, including *Lois and Clark*, *One Life to Live*, *Diagnosis Murder*, *Blue Valley Songbird*, *Good Morning America*, *Regis and Kathie Lee*, and *The Tonight Show*, among many others; and

WHEREAS, throughout his impressive career and despite his innumerable successes, Billy Dean has always kept as an unwavering priority those closest to him; he is most grateful for the love and support of his mother; his wife, Stephanie; and his children; and

WHEREAS, those who know him best describe Mr. Dean as an all-around nice person and as down-to-earth despite his enormous talent; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that we recognize the illustrious career and special musical talents of a gifted musician who makes our State proud; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend Billy Dean on his amazing musical talent as a performing artist and on his many contributions to country music and the music world in general. We extend to him our best wishes for much continued success in all his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.